

Storm Season Facility Readiness Checklist

Heavy rain creates ideal conditions for pests by increasing moisture and driving them indoors. Use this checklist to help identify potential risks and prepare your facility before the next storm.

1 Exterior Conditions

- ☐ Storm drains and gutters are clear
- ☐ No standing water around the building
- ☐ Tree branches and shrubs trimmed away from the building
- ☐ Dumpster and waste areas clean
- ☐ Exterior doors, seals and loading docks in good condition

2 Moisture & Water Intrusion

- ☐ Roof leaks repaired
- ☐ Utility rooms remain dry
- ☐ Floor drains functioning properly
- ☐ Condensation corrected
- ☐ Eliminate standing water within 24–48 hours

3 Sanitation & Storage

- ☐ Food stored properly
- ☐ Trash removed regularly
- ☐ Food debris cleaned promptly
- ☐ Storage areas organized
- ☐ Grease traps maintained

4 Pest & Rodent Entry Points

- ☐ Cracks and gaps sealed
- ☐ Door sweeps fit tightly
- ☐ Windows and screens maintained
- ☐ Loading dock doors close completely

Signs to Watch For After Heavy Rain

Monitor your facility closely for:

- ⚠ **Increased ant activity near entrances or break rooms**
- ⚠ **Cockroaches in kitchens, lights, storage rooms or utility spaces**
- ⚠ **Fly activity around drains, dumpsters or loading docks**
- ⚠ **Rodent droppings, gnaw marks or scratching sounds**
- ⚠ **Standing water remaining longer than 48 hours**

Early detection allows pest issues to be corrected before they grow into larger operational concerns.

Frequently Asked Questions

What pests and rodent risks should Florida restaurant and commercial kitchen managers prepare for during hurricane season?

Florida facilities commonly experience increased activity from ghost ants, fire ants, carpenter ants, cockroaches, flies and rodents after heavy rainfall. Flooding and saturated soil displace pests, driving them indoors in search of food, water and shelter.

How can commercial kitchens reduce ant, cockroach, rodent and fly activity after a hurricane or major storm?

Focus on sanitation, moisture control, sealing entry points, cleaning drains, maintaining waste areas and scheduling a professional commercial pest inspection. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) helps identify vulnerabilities before infestations develop.

Why does heavy rain increase pest activity?

Heavy rainfall floods nests, burrows and outdoor harborage areas. As pests seek dry shelter, commercial buildings become attractive environments with food, water and climate-controlled conditions.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an environmentally responsible, long-term approach to pest prevention. Rather than relying solely on chemical treatments, we inspect, prevent, monitor and document to identify pest risks early, helping protect people, property and the environment.

How often should commercial facilities receive pest inspections during hurricane season?

Facilities should maintain regularly scheduled commercial pest control services throughout the year, with additional inspections recommended before and after significant storms to identify new vulnerabilities caused by wind, flooding or moisture.

Why is storm preparation important for pest prevention?

Preparing before severe weather in Florida helps eliminate conditions that attract pests, reduces the likelihood of infestations, supports food safety compliance and allows facilities to recover more quickly after storms.

Schedule a Free Inspection



Protecting Florida's people, communities and businesses through proactive pest prevention

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